



# WILD Kids



K-3

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## Water: Who Needs It?

All animals need water to stay alive and healthy. The bodies of most animals (yours included) are made up of mostly water. Without water, animals could not digest food or rid their bodies of wastes. Water is so important that we can't live without it.

### Water is a Thirst Quencher



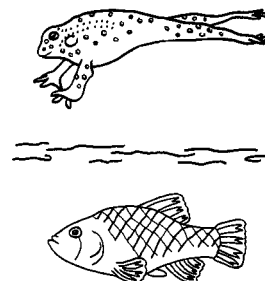
Some animals must drink water every day. But a bighorn sheep ram can go a week without drinking water. When it does find water, it may drink up to 4 gallons at one time!



The Kangaroo rat lives in dry areas where there isn't much water. Instead of drinking water, it gets water from the plants and seeds it eats.

### Water is Place to Live

Fish and frogs need to live in or near water all their lives. A fish has gills, which allow it to breathe by taking oxygen from the water. Frogs are usually found near water, where they lay their eggs.



### Water is a Way to Stay Cool!

A cool dip on a hot summer's day is a great way to beat the heat. Elk might overheat if they didn't spend some time in the water or in a mud wallow.

### Water is a Way to Keep Clean



By taking baths, birds keep their feathers clean and free of parasites. Some desert birds, such as the Gambel's quail, take dust baths instead of water baths.



(Artwork by Torie Cooper)

## What happens when there isn't enough water?

When there isn't enough rain for a long period of time, this is called a **drought**. Some animals can make it through a drought, but others may not survive.

Look at the animals pictured on the other side of this paper. What do you think would happen to each animal during a drought?

*Spell out the correct answer to each question by writing the letters in the squares below. Use one letter per square.*

1. A kangaroo rat gets the water it needs from these.

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2. A fish breathes by taking oxygen from what?

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3. Water is needed to digest what?

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4. How many gallons of water can a bighorn sheep drink at one time?

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5. A fish breathes through these.

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6. We all need water to stay alive and what?

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Use the circled letters to spell a word that means "a long, dry period."

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